

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-14

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S E C R E T STATE 227465 TOSEC 130079

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 11852, SENT SECSTATE, INFO PARIS,
USUN AMMAN, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, JIDDA, TEL AVIV, SEPT 23:

QUOTE S E C R E T BEIRUT 11852

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAS DISCUSSION WITH FRANGIE

1. PRESS REPORTS FRENCH AMBASSADOR ARGOD CALLED YESTERDAY ON
PRESIDENT FRANGIE. I CALLED ON ARGOD THIS AFTERNOON TO OBTAIN
HIS REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S CURRENT MOOD.

2. ARGOD SAID HE WAS QUITE OVERWHELMED BY FRANGIE, WHO APPEARED
HAVE NO REAL COMPREHENSION OF THE TRAGEDY FACING HIS COUNTRY
CURRENT OBJECTIVE OF PRESIDENTIAL ANGER IS ARAFAT, WHOM FRANGIE
DESCRIBED AS CONGENITAL LIAR WHO CAN BE TRUSTED ON NO REPEAT
NO ISSUE. ARGOD ALSO RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT PRESIDENT WAS
NOT AT ALL HAPPY WITH SYRIAN FOREIGN MIN KHADDAM'S INTERVENTION
AND THAT AT LEAST AS OF YESTERDAY FRANGIE WOULD PREFER ARAB
LEAGUE MEDIATION BY MOHAMED RIAD OR SOME OTHER PERSONALITY.
ARGOD NOTED. HOWEVER, THAT FRANGIE SPOKE MORE WARMLY OF KARAME

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THAN HE HAD IN PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS.

3. FRANGIE OBVIOUSLY SUPPORTS CURRENT CHRISTIAN VIEW OF CEASEFIRE FIRST AND POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS NEXT. HE DID NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY PERTURBED WHEN ARGOD POINTED OUT THAT THIS MIGHT GO ON FOR SOME TIME. PRESIDENT DID NOT EVEN REACT VIOLENTLY TO THE PROSPECT OF A CHRISTIAN DEFEAT, SAYING THAT AFTER ALL, IT WOULD NOT BE THE FIRST TIME THAT THE CHRISTIANS HAD WITHDRAWN TO THE MOUNTAINS AND HELD OUT AGAINST LARGER ENEMIES.

4. ARGOD SAID HE INQUIRED OF FRANGIE WHETHER THAER WAS ANYTHING THAT FRANCE OR OTHER TRADITIONAL FRIENDS OF LEBANON MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO TODAY. FRANGIE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR RECENT FRENCH STATEMENT BUT SAID HE SAW NOTHING MORE THAT COULD BE DONE.

5. ARGOD HIMSELF IS PESSIMISTIC. HE SAW NO REPEAT NO IMMEDIATE SOLUTION TO PRESENT LEBANESE IMPASSE. HE SAID HE BELIEVED HIS CONCERN IS SHARED AT THA QUAI AND HE UNDERSTANDS THAT FOREIGN MIN SAUVAGNARGUES HAS WRITTEN THE SECRETARY FOR A MEETING IN NEW YORK DURING WHICH HE BELIEVES SAUVAGNARGUES WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS LEBANON.

GODLEY UNQUOTE. ROBINSON

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